

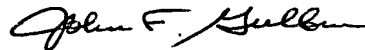
REMARKS

The preceding amendment is submitted to insert the required cross-reference to the parent application onto the first page of the specification.

Also enclosed is a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) of January 16, 2006 on the present application. Attached thereto are claims 1 through 37 which the applicants submit for examination in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In the IPER, the Examiner in the European Patent Office (EPO) considered most of the amendments submitted in the "Amendment Under Article 34" filed on October 19, 2005 not to be supported by the specification. The applicants do not agree with the position taken by the EPO Examiner and consider the amendments to be amply supported by the specification as filed.

An early examination of claims 1 through 37, as set forth in the Annex attached to the IPER, is respectfully requested and earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,



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